

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01483 061630Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/063 W

-----126350 062147Z /64

R 061616Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5959

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1483

E.O. 11652: XGDS 2
TAGS: PDIP, PN, SP
SUBJECT: NEW PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN

1. RECENT RUMORS OF THE APPOINTMENT OF HUGO TORRIJOS AS
AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED BY ANNOUNCEMENTS IN
THE PRESS THAT MOISES TORRIJOS (HUGO AND OMAR'S BROTHER) WILL
RETIRE AS AMBASSADOR FOR REASONS OF HEALTH AND AGE, AND WILL
BE REPLACED BY HOGO. THE CHANGE WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE
NEXT FEW MONTHS.

2. HUGO, 57, HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL CASINOS SINCE
1970. HE HAS SERVED AS A DEPUTY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
(45-48, 52-58), CONSUL-GENERAL IN PORT SAID (49-52), AND
MINISTER-COUNSELOR IN MADRID (58-59). HUGO HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS
A POLITICAL MODERATE, AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO THINK
HE IS NOT WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE US.

3. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT HUGO HAS USED HIS OFFICIAL
POSITIONS AND CONTACTS TO FURTHER HIS FINANCIAL INTERESTS.
FAVORS RECEIVED INCLUDE VALUABLE CONCESSIONS IN TOCUMEN
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, INCREASED TARIFFS TO PROTECT HIS
WOOD-WORKING BUSINESS, AND A MONOPOLY ON THE SUPPLY OF
SLOT MACHINES USED IN NATIONAL CASINOS. HE HAS ALLEGEDLY
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BEEN INVOLVED IN PROSITUITION AND NARCOTICS.

4. HUGO IS MARRIED TO SUSANA RICH DE TORRIJOS, A
PROMINENT PANAMANIAN EDUCATOR WHO IS CURRENTLY DEAN OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA'S HUMANITIES FACULTY, AND THE
THE COUPLE HAS THREE CHILDRED, THE YOUNGEST ABOUT 20.
HUGO SPEAKS ITALIAN AND A LITTLE ENGLISH.. IT HAS BEEN

REPORTED THAT HE IS NOT EAGER TO ACCEPT THE MADRID ASSIGNMENT,
AND THAT THIS FEELING IS SHARED BY HIS WIFE. HOWEVER, HIS
BROTHER, OMAR, PANAMANIAN CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT, IS SAID TO BE ADAMANT
ABOUT THE CHANGE.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D780101-0421
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3106607
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN
TAGS: PDIP, PN, SP, (TORRIJOS, HUGO)
To: MADRID
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/702af8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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